

Working Paper No. 1 (Rev.2)  
31 March 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

Joint UNECE/OECD/Eurostat Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development  
First meeting  
Luxembourg, 3-4 April 2006

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

This meeting is organised jointly with Eurostat and OECD

**First Meeting of the Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD  
Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development**

3-4 April 2006

Eurostat  
Quetelet Room (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)  
Bech Building  
5, rue Alphonse Weicker, Luxembourg

**Agenda (WP. 1)**

**Day 1**

1. 9:30 – 9:45            **Welcome and opening remarks**  
Pascal Wolff, Eurostat  
Tone Smith, OECD  
Lidia Bratanova, UNECE
  
2. 9:45 – 10:00        Review of meeting agenda and objectives – Robert Smith
  
3. 10:00 – 10:30       **Review of WGSSD Terms of Reference and draft work plan** – Robert Smith  
(See Annex I and Annex II of WP. 1)
  
- 10:30 – 10:45       *Break*
  
4. 10:45 – 11:00       **Operating principles of the WGSSD** – Robert Smith
  - Steering Committee
  - Role of the Secretariat
  - Meetings
  
5. 11:00 – 12:30       **Roundtable on country experience** – Country delegations with national SDI sets will be given 10 minutes to outline their experience  
Documentation: WP. 2 – 4, WP. 6 – 19 and WP. 22
  
- 12:30 – 14:00       *Lunch*
  
6. 14:00 – 14:30       **Defining the role of a conceptual framework** – Tone Smith, OECD
  
7. 14:30 – 15:00       **The need for a conceptual framework for the measurement of SD** – Kirk Hamilton, World Bank

8. 15:00 – 15:30 **Discussion of conceptual frameworks and their role - All**
- 15:30 – 15:45 *Break*
9. 15:45 – 16:15 **Discussion of conceptual frameworks and their role (continued) – All**
10. 16:15 – 16:45 **Conceptual framework of the Swiss sustainable development indicator system – Andrea Scheller, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (WP. 20)**
11. 16:45 – 17:15 **Discussion of presentation by Switzerland - All**
- 17:30 *Cocktail offered by Ms. Marie Bohata, Acting Director-General of Eurostat*
- Close*

## **Day 2**

12. 9:00 – 9:30 **A capital-based framework for statistics on sustainable development – Thorvald Moe, Department of Finance, Norway (WP. 5)**
- 9:30 – 10:30 **Discussion of presentation by Norway – All**
- 10:30 – 10:45 *Break*
13. 10:45 – 11:15 **Conceptual framework of the UK sustainable development indicator system – Stephen Hall, UK Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (WP. 21)**
- 11:15 – 12:30 **Discussion of presentation by the UK - All**
- 12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*
14. 14:00 – 14:30 **Conceptual framework of the Swedish sustainable development indicator system – Viveka Palm, Statistics Sweden**
- 14:30 – 15:30 **Discussion of presentation by Sweden – All**
- 15:30 – 15:45 *Break*

15:45 – 16:00

Summary of frameworks discussions – Robert Smith

16:00 – 16:30

Conclusions and discussion of next steps – All

- Items for follow up
- Final review of work plan
- Next meeting

*End of meeting*

# Annex I – Working Group Terms of Reference as approved by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians

STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ECE/CES/BUR/2005/12/Rev.1  
24 November 2005

## CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Second Meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau  
Washington, D.C. (United States), 24-25 October 2005

### TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON STATISTICS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Sustainable development indicators are used by national governments and international agencies for monitoring progress towards goals set by national governments and comparing performance among countries. The working group should identify good concepts and practices in order to assist national governments and international organizations in the design of sustainable development indicator sets and in the development of official statistics in the area. However, it should be clear that the objective is not to develop international recommendations on a particular set of sustainable development indicators to be used at the national level. Effort should be devoted to establishing a common understanding of the “object” of sustainability (that which is to be sustained) and to establishing core principles of the measurement of sustainability.

#### PROPOSAL

2. The working group should:
  - i) articulate a ***broad conceptual framework*** for sustainable development measurement. While the starting point of this work should be the concept of capital, the group should also consider other approaches to the extent the capital approach is found insufficient from a conceptual standpoint;
  - ii) identify the broad ***domains*** that good indicator sets should span;
  - iii) develop a ***menu*** of good sustainable development indicators in order to help governments and international organizations when they are designing indicator sets;
  - iv) identify a ***small set of indicators*** from the menu that might become the core for international comparisons;
  - v) identify basic data systems necessary for a small set of indicators and identify their possible sources (existing or new statistical surveys, administrative records, information derived from environmental monitoring systems);
  - vi) discuss the relationship between integrated environmental and economic accounts and sustainable development indicators.
3. The working group will be a joint working group of the OECD and the UNECE Conference of European Statisticians (CES) chaired by Robert Smith from Statistics Canada. The

OECD Statistics Directorate will provide the working group with a secretariat; some secretarial support will also be provided by UNECE and Eurostat. The working group will submit a more detailed project (with milestones) to the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in February 2006. The working group should, at the conclusion of its work, report back to the Conference of European Statisticians and the OECD Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts.

#### **TIMETABLE**

4. The working group should endeavour to have an interim set of recommendations by spring of 2007, in time for discussion as appropriate at the June 2007 meeting of the CES. A final set of recommendations should be prepared by the end of 2007.

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**Annex II – Draft WGSSD Workplan as submitted to the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians**

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**

ECE/CES/BUR/2006/17/Add.1  
6 February 2006

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS**

For decision
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Third meeting of the 2005/2006 Bureau  
Geneva, 20-21 February 2006  
Item 11(b) of the Provisional Agenda

**WORK PLAN FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON  
STATISTICS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Note prepared by Statistics Canada**

**BACKGROUND**

1. As mandated in the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Statistics for Sustainable Development, the proposed work plan with milestones for WG is submitted for consideration by the Bureau at its February 2006 meeting.
2. This work plan should be considered as preliminary since it has not been discussed yet with the Steering Committee. Its purpose is to give the Bureau a general sense of the Working Group's objectives and timeline. It should not be seen as definitive. The final version of the work plan will be agreed to when the Steering Committee meets in Paris in March. It should be noted that the "final report" referred to below is the "book" that has been discussed as the concrete output of the WG.

**WORKPLAN AND TIMETABLE**

- i) Establishment of Working Group – April 2006.
- ii) Develop draft outline for final report of the Working Group – April 2006.
- iii) Articulate a broad conceptual framework for sustainable development measurement – September 2006.
- iv) Identify the broad domains that good indicator sets should span – Sept 2006.
- v) Develop a menu of good sustainable development indicators in order to help governments and international organizations when they are designing indicator sets – September 2006.
- vi) Identify a small set of indicators from the menu that might become the core for international comparisons – September 2006.

- vii) Identify basic data systems necessary for a small set of indicators and identify their possible sources – September 2006.
- viii) Discuss the relationship between integrated environmental and economic accounts and sustainable development indicators – September 2006.
- ix) International conference on measurement of sustainable development in Oslo – October 2006.
- x) Prepare interim report to CES Bureau with preliminary recommendations – April 2007.
- xi) Review first drafts of chapters for final report – April 2007.
- xii) Present interim report to CES Bureau – June 2007.
- xiii) Review revised drafts of chapters for final report – August 2007.
- xiv) Present draft final recommendations to OECD Annual Meeting of Sustainable Development Experts – October 2007.
- xv) Submit final report – December 2007.

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